



Discover Downtown

Spring in Downtown!

Finally, the winter is behind us and we can start venturing outdoors again. Spring and Summer are exciting times in Downtown Lowell. Hopefully, the warm months will be fruitful for your business.

There have been some changes that occurred during the winter months in Downtown. Evos Arts has opened the Gallery Grill at 98 Middle Street. Also, MA/Com Credit Union has opened a new branch at 83 Merrimack Street. In addition, we welcome all the new residents moving into the completed residential projects. We hope that you enjoy all the benefits of living in Downtown Lowell.

The Division of Planning and Development welcomes Sophy Suon as the new Economic Development Assistant. Sophy is a familiar face to many of you, as she has worked with the Lowell Small Business Assistance Center for the past five years. We are excited to add her to our team.

As always, if you have any questions or need any assistance please feel free to contact me at sdemari@ci.lowell.ma.us or 978-970-4274.

Susan de Mari



Photo by Jim Higgins

New Parking Garage Access System

The Leo A. Roy Garage (Market Street) is the first of the city's parking garages to be updated with the latest in parking garage technology. Under the new system, customers acquire a ticket on the way in, and pay on foot at the automated machine. After paying, you will receive a ticket that you will enter into the feeder as you exit with your vehicle. This new system will allow a faster and more efficient exit from the garage. Also, the new technology allows the garage to be open 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. The Roy Garage is the test garage for all system upgrades, with all of the Downtown garages slated for upgrades in the future.

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Photo by Jim Higgins



Sidewalk Sales and Seating

Starting April 15th, Downtown Lowell restaurants and retailers can once again bring their business onto the sidewalk. There are two possible arrangements. The first is called sidewalk seating and allows food establishments to serve customers outside. If you are planning to serve alcohol outside you need to make sure that your liquor license includes the portion of the sidewalk that you will be using. Please contact the License Commission at 978-970-4156. Furthermore, sidewalk seating is an agreement that is made with the City Council. If you were granted an agreement last year, that agreement is valid this year considering that your establishment continues to meet the ordinance requirements. I am more than happy to stop by your establishment to discuss the sidewalk seating ordinance and determine if it is feasible at your location.



The second outdoor sale arrangement is called Sidewalk Stand. This allows retailers to hold a sidewalk sale directly outside of their business. In order to be granted a permit for sidewalk sales, you must have insurance protecting the city from liability as a result of your use of the sidewalk. If you would like more information on the sidewalk stand ordinance, please feel free to contact me or the License Commission.

Travel the World in Downtown Lowell

This past February, the Cultural Organization of Lowell received a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council for Destination World, an initiative organized by COOL's Executive Director, Stephanie Jones McCarthy. Destination World is an opportunity to transform Downtown Lowell into a full cultural experience complete with film, food, music, and dance. Destination World will be held the first Thursday of each month. Art will be projected onto buildings to give travelers the feeling of walking through the streets of the selected country. Activities for each Thursday will be during the hour of 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. There are ample opportunities for your business to become involved and take advantage of the benefits of Destination World. Participating businesses will receive marketing and advertising in the Destination World schedules and passports. A few ideas of ways you can participate are to include special menu items from featured countries, sell items specific to the featured countries, or show art in your establishment that is specific to the featured countries.

Countries were selected by their relevance to an event in that particular month. This is the first year, additional countries will be selected next year. Currently, the 2005-2006 Destination World Schedule is:

May 5, 2005	Mexico	February 2, 2006	Brazil
June 2, 2005	Greece	March 2, 2006	Ireland
July 7, 2005	Italy	April 4, 2006	Cambodia
August 4, 2005	Cameroon		
September 1, 2005	Portugal		
October 6, 2005	Canada		
November 3, 2005	India		
December 1, 2005	England		
January 5, 2006	Poland		



Photo by Jim Higgins



Historic Board Update

4th Annual Doors Open Lowell - May 5-7

See a different side of Lowell...the inside! Discover over 30 of Lowell's architectural treasures in this free citywide celebration of urban living and culture. View residential lofts, mills, civic and community buildings and see how people and preservation have made Lowell a creative and exciting place to live and work.



2nd Annual Doors Unhinged! - May 5-7

Presented as part of Doors Open Lowell, this exhibition and silent auction of a whimsical collection of over 20 artistically enhanced doors created by the local artist community is not to be missed! Proceeds support both Doors Open Lowell and the arts community. Stop by during Doors Open Lowell at Market Gallery, 181 Market Street.

For more information visit www.doorsopenlowell.org or call 978-275-1818.

Lowell on the Web

As everyone knows, the internet is home to an amazing amount of information on all topics, including the City of Lowell. Did you know that you can access information regarding economic development assistance online? Or that you can check out what's going on this weekend? Or that you can get information concerning downtown residential projects? The information you need is just a click away. Check out these websites for more information.



*Pay your motor vehicle
excise tax online!*

www.lowellma.gov

www.liveinlowell.com

www.cultureiscool.org

www.Lowell.org

Downtown Community Meeting

On March 22, 2005, the Lowell Police Department held a Community Meeting for Downtown residents and business owners to discuss the current state of the downtown. The meeting was presided over by Lowell Police Superintendent Ed Davis and served as an opportunity for businesses and residents to voice their concerns.

In addition, residents were encouraged to establish a Downtown Neighborhood Association with the assistance of the Lowell Police Department, City of Lowell Neighborhood Services, and Division of Planning and Development.

If you would like to become involved with the Downtown Neighborhood Association, please contact Sara Khun, Lowell Police Community Liason, at 978-937-3224.





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WinterFest Competition Winners

Thank you to everyone who participated in WinterFest 2005. We hope to see all of you again next year.

Human Dog Sled Championships -

1st Place- Greater Lowell Nor'Easters

2nd Place- Heritage Properties

Human Dog Sled Costume Competition-

1st Place- Spooky Electric

2nd Place Greater Lowell Tech—Auraura Borealis

3rd Place- Dom Polski Poodles

Soup Bowl Competition-

Culinary Excellence Award—Ricardo's Café Trattoria

People's Choice Award - Ricardo's Café Trattoria

Middle School Snowman Competition-

1st Place- Wang School

2nd Place- Riverside School

3rd Place- Academy of Notre Dame

Snowshoe Waiter Races-

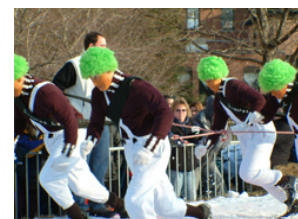
1st Place- Avenue Pub

Susan Leggat Volunteerism Award-

John and Linda Chemaly



Greater Lowell Nor'Easters



Spooky Electric

RICARDO'S
Café Trattoria